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PUNK?
KUTCHER FACES ALLEGATIONS
DISH {page 34}

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Weekend, September 3-6, 2010
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City, province firm up cop cash

Police Association president John Dooks said Mayor Bronconnier a driving force behind police funding ◐ Province can terminate deal if conditions aren't met

Signed, sealed and soon to be delivered.

According to documents obtained by Metro, Mayor Dave Bronconnier put his signature on a deal Aug. 26 that confirms provincial funding for 123 additional police officers, at a total cost of $12.3 million, or $100,000 each.

The deal is contingent on maintaining full authorized strength in 2010 and 2011, and maintaining that service level through to 2013.

More inside

Deals made prior affect campaign promises made today. Story, page 4.

Council debated the pre-approval of the police budget prior to summer break, with potential provincial funding overshadowing that debate — but news of the deal was welcomed.

"Now we've sent that strong and clear message that yes, policing is still the No. 1 priority for citizens of Calgary," said Ward 8 Ald. John Mar, who sat on the city's police commission.

Calgary Police Association president John Dooks said it's a victory for public safety. "The (provincial) funding was one reason we fought to maintain the policing budget," he said. DARREN KRAUSE

West LRT. Coming along

▶ Large yellow trusses constructed in Italy used to put together pre-fabricated pieces of the West LRT line.

MONIQUE MASSIAH/FOR METRO CALGARY

West LRT is on budget and on time, officials say

Calgary media were taken on a behind-the-scenes tour of the West LRT construction yesterday. For more on the progress, and a full photo gallery of the project, visit metronews.ca/calgary

North America

Earl storms up Atlantic coast

◐ Heavy rain bands smack North Carolina's Outer Banks ◐ Hurricane continues march to predicted landfall Saturday in Atlantic Canada {page 10}

Five minutes with Toni Vere

Local musician the Calgary Pride Parade marshal {page 23}

What's new and worth a look on TV

Navigating the new additions as TV season fires up {page 30}

Easy weeknight cooking

Not a lot of time? Not a lot of trouble {page 35}

Federer says he's in the zone

Recent trouble at majors not a concern for world No. 2 {page 37}

1 news

News on the move

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On the web at metronews.ca

Mike Benhaim picks the musical boys of summer, and there's no Bieber. More at metronews.ca/blogs

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Woman charged in stabbing

Police have laid charges against a Calgary woman in relation to a stabbing in the city's southeast on Wednesday.

Police believe two women were involved in an argument at a home located in the 1200 block of 43 Street SE, which escalated into a physical altercation.

The victim suffered a minor stab wound and was released from hospital.

Doris Black Kettle, 44, is charged with assault causing bodily harm. Police seized a weapon on scene.

They won't disclose the relationship between the women to protect the victim's identity.

METRO CALGARY

Mayoral candidate feeling left out

A Calgary candidate is wondering why he wasn't invited to a mayoral forum last week.

Gary Johnston, 63, was surprised to see there was a forum last week because he didn't get the invite.

But forum facilitator Brian Lee said the answer is simple: They had no contact information for him.

"We would have loved to have him, and everyone, but there was no contact information," Lee said.

Johnston said his number could have been found in the phone book or by calling the civic affairs.

"I would have been there if I was invited."

KRISTA SYLVESTER

▶ Bayview resident Bill Slemko points to where several hawks were nesting in the community this week.

Mail won't be 'hawked' in SW

- About 150 homes see their mail service temporarily suspended
- Residents forced to pick their mail up from another community
- Mail service to the area should resume on Tuesday, say officials

KRISTA SYLVESTER
@METRONEWS.CA

If the hawks really are gone for good, they will be missed by everyone — except the mail carrier.

Two to four hawks have reportedly been terrorizing a Canada Post mail carrier in Bayview since June, but things took a turn for the worst after one of the hawks swooped down and broke the postal worker's bike helmet, spokesperson Theresa Williams said.

"She was wearing the helmet because the attacks started getting so bad. We're really surprised at the viciousness of it. We want to ensure it's a safe environment for our carriers," Williams said.

Bayview residents say they believe the hawks left this week and that they will miss them, including Betty S., who said the only person in the community who had issues with the hawks was the carrier.

Hawks

- Residents say the hawks appeared to be about a metre wide when swooping down.
- Some residents say the hawks lived in the area last year as well.

"We think it's because she was cutting through the grass and walking under the tree, and the hawks didn't like that. We actually grew quite fond of them and will miss them," she said.

Heinz Sander, 92, often saw the hawks swooping down towards the carrier.

"I think they're gone for the winter. We've got a magpie there now," he said.

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Calgary Pride lauds 20 years

There doesn't need to be rain for the rainbow that's going to hit the city this weekend.

It's Calgary's 20th anniversary of gay Pride Parade celebrations and organizers expect it to be louder and prouder than even last year's record attendance of 10,000 people.

"We had our most successful year in terms of attendance last year and we hope to have even more this year," Pride Calgary president Sam Casselman said, adding she hopes the rain stays away.

"I think it's because as an organization we're more organized, but also because gay rights are becoming more accepted, which is important for a conservative city like Calgary."

4K The amount of people who attended in 2008, but organizers hope that number triples this year.

Casselman said there will be a speaker at the parade that was involved with Pride when it began in 1990, but she also hopes people will enjoy the pride dances, parties and of course, the parade.

For more information about this weekend's events, please visit www.pridecalgary.ca.

KRISTA SYLVESTER

News in brief

100 days for abusing child

SENTENCE. A Calgary man has received 100 days in detention for sexually assaulting a young girl over a two and a half year period when the child was three. He was a youth at the time and cannot be named. METRO CALGARY

Mayoral hopefuls make big pledges

▶ Funding deals, like the recently signed-off provincial funding for police, could be at risk if mayoral candidates fiddle with city coffers in making election promises, says one candidate.

Municipal election date is Oct. 18

DARREN KRAUSE
@METRONEWS.CA

Promises, promises.

With a municipal election 44 days away, campaign rhetoric is heating up, and candidates are laying their hope of electoral bliss in the success of their platform.

In the past week, two mayoral hopefuls, Wayne Stewart and Alnoor Kassam have made fiscal pledges with a direct effect on City of Calgary coffers.

Wednesday, Stewart promised to freeze property taxes if elected, and at last Sunday's mayoral shindig, held by the Calgary Leadership Forum, Kassam said he'd resign as mayor if he didn't deliver to city taxpayers a 2.5 per cent annual reduction in property taxes.

Current alderman and mayoral hopeful Bob Hawkesworth said promises like a tax freeze could jeopardize funding of a variety of city programs, including the police budget.

"These are just rash promises that people are making with no thought or understanding of the consequences," said Hawkesworth.

"It's either ideological or inexperience — or both — that people are making promises that will be virtually impossible to keep."

"I will reduce taxes by 2.5 per cent each of the first three years I'm in office, or I will resign."
ALNOOR KASSAM

With provincial funding agreements in place, like the recently rubber-stamped police funding that's contingent on maintaining full service levels, politicians could be saddled with yesterday's decisions — impacting today's political promises.

"We'll live with agreements that have been made (by the council of the day)," said Stewart, who supports improved safety and security in the city.

"I believe that we can accommodate those agreements and still meet the promise I made (Wednesday). Our approach will be to find efficiencies."

Stewart said he'll work with Calgarians.

Keep it real, says Mar

Ward 8 Ald. John Mar said politicians would be wise to design their campaign around realistic policies — and ones they believe they can keep.

"What the aldermen and mayor need to learn is to count to eight. Eight's the magic number — that's a majority on council," said Mar.

"Nothing happens unless you have eight guys or girls together."

DARREN KRAUSE

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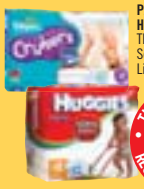

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SHOPPERS DRUG MART

HOMELESSNESS

350 benefitted from housing support in first quarter: CHF

Almost 350 Calgarians have received affordable housing and support services during the first fiscal quarter of 2010/2011, according to the Calgary Homeless Foundation (CHF).

The results stem from Calgary's 10 Year Plan to End Homelessness, CHF president and CEO Tim Richter said.

"If we maintain this pace throughout the year, we're on track to house more than 1,300 men, women and children," Richter said. The CHF also bought two properties for singles, couples and families and started renovations on five existing properties.

METRO CALGARY

Police plan holiday traffic stops

In response to an increase in collisions, injuries and fatalities over long weekends city police will be conducting roving patrols, and check stops this long-weekend.

"Every year, too many Albertans are killed or seriously injured on Alberta roadways. Don't become a statistic this long weekend," said RCMP Insp. James Stiles.

METRO CALGARY

Making a Mochrie of improv fest

Colin Mochrie takes on international improv acts at the 3rd annual Calgary Improv Festival.

Calgary's funniest festival, hosted by Comedy Inc. star Roman Danylo, will take place from Sept. 29 to Oct 3.

This year's festival will feature some of the best of the best in the improv game, both from Canada and overseas.

METRO CALGARY

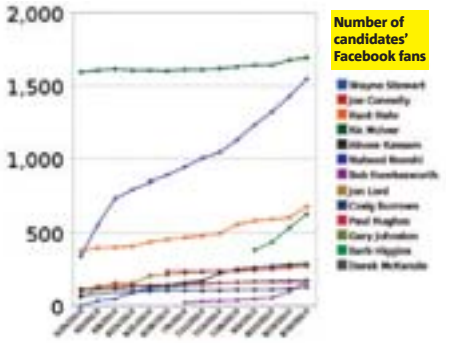
WRITING'S ON THE (FACEBOOK) WALL

Opinion

DJ KELLY

THE SCRUTINEER, WITH ANALYSIS OF CIVIC ISSUES LEADING UP TO THE ELECTION

We now stand at 17 mayoral candidates. Obviously only one of them will be our next mayor.



Several of them probably represent your view of what you'd like Calgary to be. But how do you decide who has a serious chance at winning – and should get your vote – and to which candidate would your vote be a throw-away?

Polls are one way to find out what other Calgarians are thinking. I don't know about you, but I've never been asked to participate in a poll. (I don't have a home phone, so my opinion is automatically ineligible.) Plus, in these polls you can only pick one candidate, so we can't really tell who else you are considering.

The good news is we have a freely accessible tool that represents the average Calgarian perfectly: Facebook.

The site's demographics are almost exactly the same as Calgary's. (Yes, people over the age of 45 do use the networking site, making up about 35 per cent of its users, while 34.4 per cent of Calgarians fall into this demographic.)

On Facebook you can tell who is considering multiple candidates — they are a "fan" of several. You can also tell who doesn't care — they haven't joined any candidate's page. It takes everyone into account. More importantly, you can gauge each campaign's momentum.

On Facebook it's clear that Ric McIver is in the lead, and has been for some time. However, what is also clear is that his support has flatlined.

Naheed Nenshi and Barb Higgins, meanwhile, are gaining a following at a rate no other candidate has come close to sustaining. But will either of them have enough time to overtake McIver's lead before election day? If the current trend continues, the answer for Nenshi is "yes," and the answer for Higgins is "no." Things can change over the next 45 days, however so I wouldn't count either out.

It is also surprising that there is a very clear fourth candidate in this race. Kent Hehr is plodding along at a growth rate similar to the candidates below him, but he has almost double the "fans." However, he's got a long way to go to catch up with the Big 3.

Everyone else has some soul-searching to do. If you can't even drum up support on Facebook, I'm not confident you'll be able to bring citizens together after you're elected.

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News in brief

Lang to be added to war memorial

REGINA. The name of a Calgary Herald reporter killed while on assignment in Afghanistan is being added to a plaque at the Saskatchewan War Memorial.

Michelle Lang, who was 34, died Dec. 30 along with four Canadian soldiers when their armoured vehicle hit an improvised explosive device outside Kandahar city.

The award-winning journalist worked at the Regina Leader-Post during her career and is being added to the memorial along with former Regina resident Lt. Andrew Nuttall and Lt. Justin Boyes, of Saskatoon.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Youths get probation

SWARMING. Two men charged in connection with a swarming assault that left an 18-year-old in a coma were sentenced to probation on Thursday. Both were youths at the time of the 2007 attack and cannot be named. Both men, now 20, pleaded guilty to possession of a weapon and causing a disturbance.

METRO CALGARY

Stabbing arrest made

CRIME. A 16-year-old has been arrested and charged in relation to a July stabbing near Shaw Millennium Park. The victim, 19, was allegedly stabbed in the early hours of July 17. The suspect was arrested and charged in relation.

METRO CALGARY

Transit launches yearly safety blitz

Awareness campaign enters 12th year ◆ During 2009 campaign, police received hundreds of compliments

KRISTA SYLVESTER
@METRONEWS.CA

It's back to school and back to work for many and city officials want Calgarians to feel safe when in and around LRT stations.

Calgary police and Calgary Transit launched their annual Public Safety and Enforcement campaign to coincide with back to school on Thursday at Chinook Station.

"It's really about increased presence and visibility and making people feel safe and comfortable. People have already noticed a difference," acting Staff Sgt. Scott Nielson said.

"We're out here to educate and make people aware, but there is also a secondary enforcement component. I think there will be a noticeable difference."

The campaign coincides with an influx of passengers and people will notice not only more police presence, but peace officers too, according to Calgary Transit safety spokesperson Brian Whitelaw.

"It's exciting and we always look forward to working with the Calgary police service," he said.

KRISTA SYLVESTER/METRO CALGARY

▶ Acting Staff Sgt. Scott Nielson said transit users appreciate the extra police presence during the September safety campaign.

"We want to make sure people are here for legitimate purposes, especially at night, and not just loitering."

Grade 12 student Jessica Smith appreciates the extra visibility.

"More so on the way home from school, it will be nice to have them there."

By the numbers

- Calgary Transit has 14,000 parking stalls throughout the system in various city lots
- Vehicle thefts decreased by 50 per cent in 2009, down to 350 thefts from 700 in 2008
- Already in the first quarter of 2010, vehicle thefts are down 75 per cent
- Calgary Transit uses the Bait car system in their lots to deter theft

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▶ The Priddis Valley Gardens will host a variety of musical guests this weekend.

Festival shines light on city's eclectic scene

Event will highlight 'Calgary's different genres of music': Organizer Goes Saturday at unique venue

MONIQUE MASSIAH
CALGARY@METRONEWS.CA

Blues, jazz, rock and country — you'll find it all at this weekend's Sonica festival.

Taking place at the Priddis Valley Gardens Saturday, fans will be able to set up a tent and enjoy 24 hours of musical revelry.

"I want people to come here and have an experience," said Kelly Tait, owner of Priddis Valley Gardens.

After moving to Calgary five years ago and feeling closed off by typical city life, Tait created the Priddis Valley Garden as an open-minded creative space for people in the area to go to.

"There isn't a festival that showcases Calgary's different genres of music," said organizer Marvin Kee, who added that the festival will try to break down that stereotypes that Calgary is only about country and western.

The concert showcases 24 local acts — the best Calgary has to offer, said Kee.

As the former lead guitarist from the Highrollers (a unique funk rock band, as he described it), Kee says he always envisioned himself doing a large festival.

500
The number of people expected to turn out for the multi-genre music festival.

Priddis Valley

Located 30 minutes outside Calgary, the garden is a work in progress that will never be finished, says owner Kelly Tait.

OIL COMPANIES

Store properly, save millions, CEO says

Millions of dollars in revenue could be saved by oil companies with proper storage, says the CEO of a Calgary company with technology he plans to implement in Alberta.

Bilal Hydrie of Inclusive Energy, which specializes in oilfield remediation, says a proposed $20.5-million storage facility outside Edson, the largest in the province, will offer state-of-the-art technology that offers oil companies more accurate evaluation of off-loaded oil — including temperature-corrected volume, density, sediment and water content — and can pump at 1,600 litres per minute.

"Oil companies are losing millions," Hydrie said of the current storage off-load techniques.

DARREN KRAUSE

Workers get election details

Calgary Home Builder's Association (CHBA) and Urban Development Institute (UDI) plan to host public discussion events leading up to elections Oct. 18.

CHBA and UDI created votecalgary.ca to give information to workers in the housing industry. UDI and CHBA combined represent more than 880 companies within the commercial construction community in Calgary.

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U.S. braces for Earl's wrath

North Carolina sets up temporary shelters Officials on Nantucket Island, Mass., plan to do same

The last ferry left for the mainland and coastal residents hunkered down at home as hurricane Earl closed in with 177 km/h winds Thursday on North Carolina's dangerously exposed Outer Banks, the first and potentially most destructive stop on the storm's projected journey up the Eastern Seaboard.

The first bands of heavy rain hit the long ribbon of barrier islands Thursday night. The downpours started in several bursts as the storm's so-called rain shield whirled into the southeasternmost tip of the Outer Banks.

Earl's arrival could mark the start of at least 24 hours of stormy, windy weather along the U.S. East Coast. During its march up the Atlantic, it could snarl travellers' Labour Day weekend plans and strike a second forceful blow to the vacation homes and cottages on Long Island, Nantucket Island and Cape Cod.

"This is the strongest hurricane to threaten the northeast and New England since hurricane Bob in 1991. They don't get storms this powerful very often."
DENNIS FELTGEN, METEOROLOGIST, NATIONAL HURRICANE CENTER

It was unclear exactly how close Earl's centre and its strongest winds would get to land.

As of Thursday afternoon the only evacuations ordered were on the Outer Banks, which sticks out into the Atlantic Ocean like the side-view mirror on a car, vulnerable to a sideswiping. About 35,000 tourists and residents were urged to leave.

Hundreds of the Outer Banks' more hardy residents gassed up their generators and planned to hunker down at home behind their boarded-up windows, even though officials warned them that it could be three days before they could expect any help and that storm surge could again slice through the islands. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MATT ROURKE/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ People play in strong ocean waves in Atlantic City, N.J., as hurricane Earl headed toward the eastern coast Thursday.

A familiar pattern

Earl weakened into a Category 2 storm with 177 km/h winds Thursday night. A slow winding down was expected to continue as the storm moved into cooler waters, but forecasters warned the size of the storm's wind field was increasing, similar to what happened with hurricane Katrina when it hit the Gulf Coast five years ago. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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GULF OF MEXICO

Crews open up oil well

Engineers have removed a temporary cap that in mid-July stopped oil from gushing into the Gulf of Mexico from BP's blown-out well.

More oil is not expected to leak into the sea, but crews are on standby with collection vessels just in case.

The cap was removed Thursday as a prelude to raising the piece of equipment underneath that failed to prevent the worst offshore oil spill in U.S. history.

The government wants to replace the failed blowout preventer first to deal with any pressure that is caused when a relief well BP has been drilling intersects the blown-out well.

Once that occurs, BP is expected to use mud and cement to plug the blown-out well for good.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Gunman's bombs detonated

A fire chief says crews detonated four explosives linked to a gunman who took three hostages at Discovery Communications headquarters in Maryland.

Montgomery County fire chief Richard Bowers said Thursday that officials took the devices from a home. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Stranded goats rescued

Two young goats that wandered onto the thin ledge of a Montana railroad bridge and spent two days high above a highway were hungry but safe when they were plucked to safety with a towering crane.

The rescue occurred Wednesday.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

No spill from latest oil accident: Coast Guard

GERALD HERBERT/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ Boats spray water on an oil-and-gas platform that exploded in the Gulf of Mexico Thursday.

Platform located in shallower water than BP's Deepwater Horizon

An oil platform exploded and burned off the Louisiana coast Thursday, the second such disaster in the Gulf of Mexico in less than five months. This time, the Coast Guard said there was no leak, and no one was killed.

The Coast Guard initially reported that an oil sheen a mile long and 100 feet wide had begun to spread from the site of the blast, about 200 miles west of the source of BP's massive spill. But hours later, Coast Guard Cmdr. Cheri Ben-Iesau said crews were unable to find any spill.

The platform's owner, Houston-based Mariner Energy, did not know what caused the explosion.

Mariner officials said there were seven active production wells on the platform, and they were shut down shortly before the fire broke out.

Louisiana Gov. Bobby Jindal said the company told him the fire began in barrels of light oil condensate, but officials did not know yet what sparked it.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

3,400

There are about 3,400 platforms operating in the Gulf, according to the American Petroleum Institute. Together they pump about a third of America's domestic oil, forming the backbone of the country's petroleum industry.

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‘Terry’s spirit will never die’

Mom Betty Fox launches new fundraising drive to conquer cancer
Shoes signed by Canadian Olympians will be up for auction on eBay

Betty Fox says the spirit of her son lives on in so many people who are the unsung heroes of the Terry Fox Run.

“Terry’s journey was cut tragically short but he left us with the legacy of hope and the powerful example of how one person truly can make a difference,” she said Thursday.

She spoke as the Terry Fox Foundation marked the 30th anniversary of the Marathon of Hope — her son’s attempt to run across Canada — with a new fundraising initiative for cancer research.

An online auction will allow Canadians to bid on 30 pairs of Medallist Edition replica shoes signed by Canadian Olympians and Paralympians from the Vancouver Games.

The shoes, bearing the signatures of such athletes as speed skaters Kristina Groves and Clara Hughes, curler Cheryl Bernard and snowboarder Jasey-Jay Anderson, will be on eBay from Sept. 7 to 21.

Helen Upperton of Calgary, who won Olympic silver in the two-woman bobsled, is among those who signed the shoes.

Her family first took part in the annual Terry Fox Run when she was eight years old and living in Lloydminster on the Alberta-Saskatchewan border.

30 The 30th annual run is set for Sept. 19. Since 1981, $550 million has been raised by 35 million participants in more than 40 countries who have laced up for the annual event.

“Terry Fox embodies what we hope to achieve. He’s an incredible athlete, he’s a hero,” said Upperton.

“He inspired a country and people all around the world and that’s what we were trying to do at the Vancouver Olympics.”

“I guess in some way we feel like we have something in common with him,” she said.

Betty Fox said she and her husband Rolly know their son’s dream lives on in the volunteers, runners, donors and scientists who have taken up the cause of defeating cancer.

Canadians can also buy 30th anniversary shoelaces for $5 at Adidas stores, or through the foundation. Terry wore Adidas running shoes during the 143 days he pounded the pavement.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

THE BOY WHO INSPIRED CANADA

Canada will never forget the bravery of Terry Fox, whose name adorns schools, roadways and statues.

The beginning:
When he started out in St. John’s on April 12, 1980, Terry planned to run a marathon a day (about 42 kilometres) until he made it across the country to the West Coast.

The diagnosis:
Five months later the one-legged runner had reached Thunder Bay, Ont., but the cancer that had claimed his right leg was diagnosed in his lungs.

The end:
Terry died on June 28, 1981, at the age of 22. He is celebrated as one of Canada’s most beloved heroes, while his feat is honoured around the globe.

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GRISLY FIND

Babies' bodies in suitcase

Los Angeles police have identified the owner of a trunk in which the mummified remains of a baby and a fetus were found.

Investigators said Thursday the trunk belonged to Janet M. Barrie, who immigrated to the U.S. from Scotland in the mid-1920s.

She was the home nurse for a Los Angeles dentist and died in 1992, leaving behind a trunk filled with her belongings and the bodies of two infants wrapped in newspapers.

The trunk was found Aug. 17 in an apartment building basement.

Investigators tracked down relatives of Barrie in Canada and are awaiting DNA tests.

Authorities have not determined a cause of death of the babies.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Harvest's a washout on Prairies

Flooding has delayed or washed out seeding across a wide swath of the Prairies, and more wet weather is now slowing the harvest.

Farmers want a repeat of last year, when parts of the Prairies baked in the warmest September ever.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Obama has date with the media

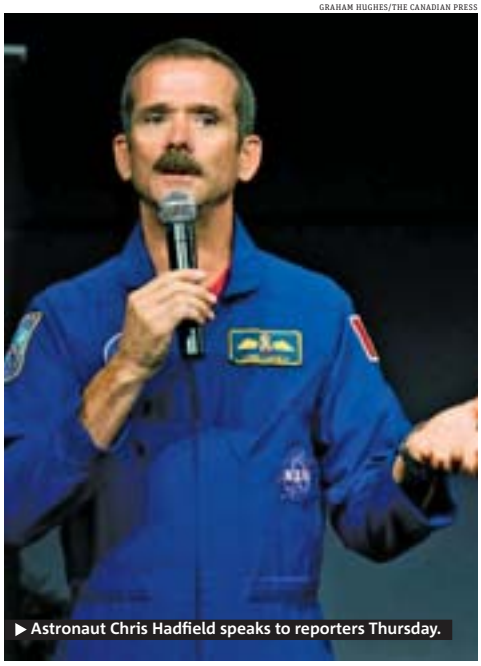
U.S. President Barack Obama will hold a news conference at the White House Sept. 10.

Officials said Obama will use the news conference to discuss his work on the economy. Obama last held a news conference in May to address the Gulf oil spill.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Astronaut planning a hoedown in space

GRAHAM HUGHES/THE CANADIAN PRESS



▶ Astronaut Chris Hadfield speaks to reporters Thursday.

Hadfield loves strumming the guitar ◐ He's space station boss

There will be a lot of guitar strumming at the International Space Station once veteran Canadian astronaut Chris Hadfield and two fellow travellers arrive there in late 2012 for a six-month stay.

The 18-year space veteran is an avid guitar lover — in fact, the mission patch he will be wearing on his spacesuit is in the form of a guitar pick.

Hadfield, 51, says he's just itching to pluck the strings of a guitar from the Larrivee company in Vancouver that has been on the space station for years.

"I'm no great musician, but I really enjoy music," he said Thursday after it was officially announced he will become the first Canadian commander of the giant orbiting laboratory.

"Since I was nine, I've been trying to ready myself for the day that not only I might fly in space, but maybe actually command a space ship."

CHRIS HADFIELD

"To have this opportunity is extremely challenging, extremely exciting for me and extremely rewarding as well," Hadfield told a news conference at the Canadian Space Agency in Longueuil, Que.

"It's still over two years away. I still have to pass two more of the toughest physicals of anybody on Earth before they'll let me get into that Soyuz and go dock at the space station."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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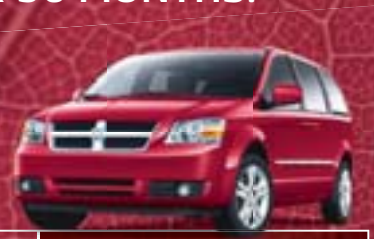

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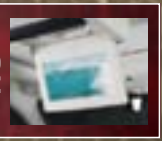

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See participating dealer for complete details. *Consumer Cash Discounts are offered on most new 2009/2010 vehicles and are manufacturer-to-dealer incentives, which are deducted from the negotiated price before taxes. Amounts vary by vehicle. See your dealer for complete details. †0% purchase financing for 36 months available to qualified customers on approved credit through Royal Bank of Canada, ScotiaBank, TD Financing Services and RBC Royal Bank. Example: $21,488 Purchase Price (24F-CL9) 2010 Dodge Grand Caravan Canada Value Package, SE (22F-CLE) with a Purchase Price of $21,488/$19,988 financed at 0% for 36 months equate monthly payments of $596.86/$555.22; financed at 2.75% for 84 months equate bi-weekly payments of $130.00/$121.00. Cost of borrowing is $0. Offer may change or end without notice. ‡Based on 2010 Dodge Journey SE (22F-CLE) with a Purchase Price of $21,488/$19,988 financed at 0% for 36 months equate monthly payments of $596.86/$555.22; financed at 2.75% for 84 months equate bi-weekly payments of $130.00/$121.00. Cost of borrowing is $4,644.45/$4,325.27 and a total obligation of $26,132.45/$24,313.27. Offers from Chrysler Financing, TD Financing Services and Royal Bank of Canada. Bi-weekly payments shown are based on 84 month terms. Variable rate shown is based on TD and RBC Prime Rate and fluctuates accordingly. Payments and financing term may increase or decrease with rate fluctuations. RBC offer is not open to dealers in Quebec. TD offer is not open to residents of Newfoundland and Labrador, Yukon, Nunavut and Northwest Territories. Some conditions apply. 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Pricing includes freight ($1,400) and excludes license, insurance, registration, any dealer administration fees and applicable taxes. Dealer order/trade may be necessary. Dealers may sell for less. ‡Based on U.S. National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) scoring system for 2010 model year Dodge Grand Caravan and Journey. ^Based on January through June, 2010 R.L. Polk sales total registrations. ®SIRIUS and the dog logo are registered trademarks of SIRIUS Satellite Radio Inc. ®Jeep is a registered trademark of Chrysler Group LLC. The Best Buy Seal is a registered trademark of Consumers Digest Communications LLC, used under license. Customer Choice Financing is a trademark of Chrysler Group LLC.

News in brief

Mother Teresa gets a stamp

WASHINGTON. The late Mother Teresa is being recognized for her humanitarian work with the issuance of a new U.S. postage stamp. The 44-cent stamp showing a portrait of the Roman Catholic nun is being released at a ceremony Sunday at Washington's National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception.

Mother Teresa won the 1979 Nobel Peace Prize for her half-century of work with the sick and destitute of India.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Burger King acquired

BUSINESS. Burger King Holdings Inc. is selling itself to private equity firm 3G Capital in a deal valued at $3.26 billion US. Burger King is America's second-largest hamburger chain behind rival McDonald's Corp. But with 12,100 U.S. locations, it's struggled because the economy has been bad for its most important group of customers: young men.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Record profit for CWB

EARNINGS. Third-quarter profit at Canadian Western Bank jumped 62 per cent to a record $46.6 million as the Alberta bank saw revenues up 30 per cent to $111.0 million. Canadian Western said its earnings amounted to 59 cents per share.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Better times ahead for big oil: Outlook

Global consumption nearly back to level before meltdown ● 3,400 jobs expected to be added in Canada

A business think-tank sees rosier times ahead for Canadian oil producers, who are expected to reap $8.4 billion in profits this year as the world economy recovers from the recession and energy demand picks up.

"With the global recession giving way to economic recovery, demand for crude is expected to resume a long-term upward trend," the Conference Board of Canada said in its summer industrial outlook, released Thursday.

Global oil consumption is nearly back where it was before the financial meltdown and prices have almost doubled from the lows they hit last year.

Prices may be higher, but the Conference board notes they're still well below their 2008 peak and says uncertainty over the recovery and high inventories will limit price increases.

Even so, it predicts Canadian oil companies will fare much better this year after a large drop in oil prices last year reduced profits by 90 per cent to about $1.7 billion.

Wage growth will slow, but it will still hover above the national average at 3.9 per cent.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

▶ Shell Canada's John Broadhurst pours out dried tailings after announcing a new oil sands project on Thursday.

Oil sands

Canada's oil producers should pull 4.1 per cent more crude from the ground this year with improvements on the conventional side, the group said. Most future growth is expected to come from higher oilsands production.

- "The exact timing of individual projects remains uncertain; however, with oil prices remaining elevated and several projects already announced, there should be no shortage of new capacity coming online over the forecast," the report said.
- Last year, costs in the industry fell 20 per cent to $67.5 billion, with the biggest drop coming from material costs.

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Special forces to end Afghan mission as well

To surprise of some, general says JTF-2 and others will leave when Canada's mission ends next year

The shadowy war fought in Afghanistan by Canada's ultra-secret special forces will also end next year when the army ceases combat operations in Kandahar, says the general in charge of the country's overseas command.

It is a significant, if somewhat unrecognized, milestone for a force whose exploits have been blanketed in secrecy for almost a decade.

Much of the public attention on the end of the combat mission has focused on the battle group of nearly 3,000 soldiers who, since February 2006, have fought to keep Kandahar from slipping back in to the grasp of Taliban militants.

Those troops have fought largely under NATO command, but a concurrent war was conducted under the auspices of the U.S. Operation Enduring Freedom, whose counter-terrorism mission since 2001 has been to hunt al-Qaeda and Taliban leaders.

Lt.-Gen. Marc Lessard, the head of the Canadian Expeditionary Force Command, said it's often not recognized that the parliamentary motion to halt combat operations by July 2011 also applies to the special forces, who were the first to hit the ground in Afghanistan following 9-11.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Will be missed

Retired major general Lewis MacKenzie says the contribution of Canadian commandos will be missed because they've been a valuable source of intelligence-gathering and have eliminated their share of Taliban leaders.

Ontario. Homecoming

A hearse carrying Cpl. Brian Pinksen's body leaves CFB Trenton Thursday.

PETER REDMAN/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Grieving the 152nd soldier to die

A military plane carrying the body of the latest Canadian soldier to die during the Afghan mission arrived at CFB Trenton. Cpl. Brian Pinksen was wounded by a roadside bomb near Kandahar. He died in a German hospital Monday.

Deadly fires continue in Russia

A Russian news agency reports that forest fires raging in Russia have left two people dead and 14 hospitalized. RIA Novosti said an 80-year old woman and a 77-year-old man died in the Volgograd region Thursday. It says fires destroyed more than 100 houses.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Death sentence commuted

A condemned inmate had his life spared Thursday when Ohio Governor Ted Strickland cited "legitimate questions" about evidence used to convict the inmate, even though the governor believes Kevin Keith committed the 1994 triple homicide he was convicted of. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Suspicious car cleared by N.Y. cops

New York City police say nothing suspicious was found Thursday in a Mercedes parked for hours in midtown Manhattan that was being inspected as a precaution. The trunk appeared to be weighted down, and nervous bank workers called police.

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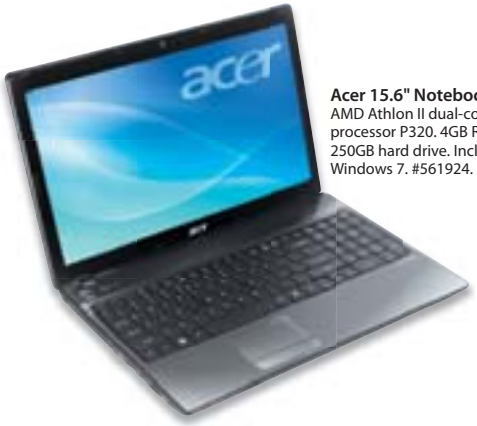

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Calderon talks on drug war carnage

Critics, especially Mexicans who live in violent cities, believe the government is losing control

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE PHOTO

▶ Calderon

President Felipe Calderon tried to rally frustrated Mexicans behind his increasingly bloody drug war Thursday, saying he knows violence has surged under his watch, but arguing that it is the price of confronting powerful and brutal cartels.

Calderon delivered his annual state-of-the-nation address two days after his government brought down the third major kingpin in less than a year. But it also came less than two weeks after the massacre of 72 migrants near the U.S. border, which laid bare how freely drug traffickers operate in pockets of the country, no matter how many capos are captured.

"I am well aware that over the past year, violence has worsened," Calderon said. "But we must battle on."

Calderon has struggled to maintain support for a fight that was hugely popular when he first deployed tens of thousands of soldiers and federal police to drug-cartel strongholds across the country in late 2006.

Since then, gang violence has become more shocking, with beheaded bodies hung from bridges and police discovering pits filled with dozens of slain cartel victims. Gangs have employed warfare tactics previously unseen in Mexico, including car bombs and blockades in front of police stations and army garrisons.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

London. Fair play?

▶ A man dressed as a cleaner with a message stands outside the Pakistan High Commission in London, yesterday.

SANG TAN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

It's just not cricket

Three Pakistan cricketers at the centre of fixing allegations insisted they are innocent in a meeting with Pakistan High Commissioner Wajid Shamsul Hasan.

Hamas kills four on eve of peace talks

To relaunch Middle East peace talks on Thursday, the Israeli and Palestinian leaders and their American mediators quietly agreed to push aside the question of Hamas — the Islamic militant group that controls one of the two Palestinian territories and rejects negotiations.

But Hamas let it be known with its bullets that it would not be left out of the equation — the militants killed four Israelis and wounded two others in a pair of attacks on the eve of the new talks.

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Abbas has rejected any suggestion of a partial solution granting independence only to the West Bank and its 2.4 million Palestinians.

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NDP rethinks its stance on long-gun vote

Official explains that party has more to lose on its position compared to the Liberals

Some rural and northern New Democrat MPs may stay away from the upcoming vote on the long-gun registry, a move that could save the controversial program.

The about-face is driven in part by tactics the Conservative government is employing as it tries to build support for killing the registry. One Conservative MP has accused Canada's police chiefs of plotting to use the registry to seize Canadians' rifles and shotguns.

"You've got the Conservatives turning off our rural guys," said Brad Lavigne, national director of the NDP. He added that

HANDOUT

▶ Brad Lavigne

two "very real options" are available to rural members — stay away or reverse their earlier support for the Conservative bill.

Staying away from the vote is the easier of the two, Lavigne said.

At least one of the 12 New Democrats who supported the Conservative bill on second reading will change his vote.

MP Charlie Angus (Timmins-James Bay) said his "Granny Angus" didn't raise him to run away from a fight and he will oppose Manitoba Conservative MP Candice Hoeppner's bill during the final House of Commons vote, even though he supported it earlier.

"The Conservatives are unfortunately creating an impression that rural Canadians are somehow nut jobs, but they are not," he said.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Rome Demonstration

▶ A demonstrator holds a portrait of Iranian woman Sakineh Mohammadi Ashtiani during a protest in front of the Iran embassy in Rome, yesterday.

GREGORIO BORGIA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Protest on death penalty

Protesters asked Iran to lift its death sentence on a woman convicted of adultery. The lawyer who defended her was reunited with his family.

Chinese census a daunting task

Census takers counting China's more than 1.3 billion people already face a daunting task, and it's getting harder for the latest once-a-decade update.

After years of reforms that have reduced the government's once-pervasive involvement in most people's lives, some Chinese are proving reluctant to give up personal information and harbouring suspicions about what the government plans to do with their details.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

1

Another complicating issue are children born in violation of the country's one-child policy, many of whom are unregistered and therefore have no legal identity. They could number in the millions.

A Call to Action

Support the Flood Stricken Communities of Pakistan

"Waves of flood must be met with waves of support from the world. I'm here to urge the world to step up assistance."

Ban Ki-Moon - UN Secretary General - during a visit to Pakistan last week

Entire regions and communities have been struck by the worst flood ever witnessed in the history of Pakistan. This tragic disaster is considered worse than the Tsunami of 2006, Haiti and Kashmir earthquakes combined. It is estimated that 20 million people have been affected by the floods to date. Of those, 6 million are in need of immediate rescue. These numbers are increasing rapidly.

The United Nations estimated a gap of US$460 million for the UN and the international community to implement a primary relief plan in response to the floods. The international community is making an effort to bridge this gap.

One of WIND Mobile's partners, Orascom Telecom Holding, in collaboration with Mobilink Foundation, has pledged US$1 Million to support the relief efforts.
Visit www.mobilinkfoundation.org for more information about Mobilink Foundation and its relief efforts.

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POLITICIANS SPEND MONEY JUST LIKE IMMATURE CHILDREN

Other people's money

DAVID DESCÔTEAUX

"$540,425,310,714!" Maude is sitting next to me. She's raising two young children, and wants to know Canada's federal debt. "It's climbing by $135 million a day," I tell her. "$1,560 per second!"

We've been stopped for five minutes. When I finish answering her question, the power goes, and darkness envelops the train.

"That's ridiculous! And our children are the ones who are going to be crushed by this debt?"

"Yes. Their share is more than $15,000 each. This means they'll have to pay higher taxes, and they'll receive fewer services like health care or student bursaries."

"Unbelievable! It's time for our elected officials to have an adult conversation about our public finances."

"I agree. But our politicians will never have that conversation. As economist Don Boudreaux once put it, adult conversations about money are mature and responsible, because adults earn and spend their own money. I also have two small children and their financial conversations are infantile and irresponsible. It's always, 'I want that toy!' or 'Let's go to McDonald's!' or 'Take me to Disneyland!' They demand these things constantly, which makes perfect sense: It's my girlfriend and I who are paying. Children have nothing to lose by playing this game. If their demands are met, someone else will be footing the bill.

"They're like kids at a pinball machine into which no coin has been inserted. They hammer away frantically at all of the buttons and think they're responsible for the bells and flashing lights."

"The conversations about public finances that politicians have with interest groups (unions, businesses, coalition X or Y, all of whom want their goodies) are infantile for the exact same reason: the money they spend isn't theirs. It's ours."

"And when they run out," Maude says, "they go see daddy and mommy to charge and tax them even more, is that it?"

"Exactly. And when the economy is rolling along nicely (for a whole slew of reasons), politicians try to take the credit. They're like kids at a pinball machine into which no coin has been inserted. They hammer away frantically at all of the buttons and think they're responsible for the bells and flashing lights. Children, I tell you."

At this point, Maude decides to listen to her iPod.

The power comes back on, but it's still dark in the train. The debt is now $540,425,778,714. Five brief minutes, and we're $468,000 more in debt.

We're finally underway, speeding along, not seeing the approaching wall.

David Descôteaux is a freelance economic journalist and an associate researcher at the Montreal Economic Institute.

iPad has a new rival

Bluetooth, Wi-Fi, 3G cellphone networks make it both smartphone and laptop

Samsung Electronics Co. on Thursday unveiled a new tablet PC named Galaxy Tab as the latest device meant to rival Apple's popular iPad.

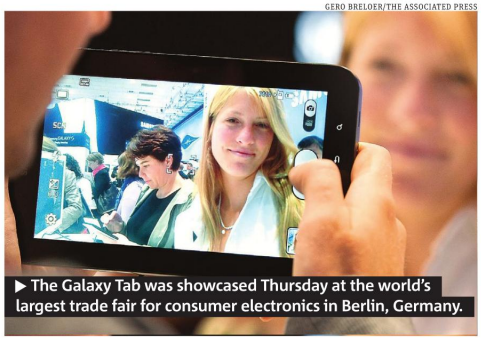
The device offers users features such as mobile video conferencing and a video chat function, Samsung executive Thomas Richter said.

The thin tablet device weighs 380 grams and has an 18-centimetre touch screen, making it about three times that of an Apple iPhone, but roughly a third smaller than an iPad.

Richter said it comes with Google Inc.'s Android 2.2 operating system, which can run HTML5 and Adobe's Flash Player — unlike the iPad.

The tablet PC also comes with two cameras, one three-megabyte digital camera with a flash on the back of the device, and a second camera on the front for video conferences — a feature the iPad lacks, but something Dell's Streak tablet PC offers. It also comes with Swype, which allows users to type on virtual keyboards by simply swiping fingers around from one letter to the next, lifting only between words.

GERO BRELOER/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



▶ The Galaxy Tab was showcased Thursday at the world's largest trade fair for consumer electronics in Berlin, Germany.

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▶ Toni Vere

5 MINUTES WITH: TONI VERE

Toni Vere is a local musician who has been selected as the 20th anniversary Calgary Pride Parade marshal. For more information, visit www.pridecalgary.ca.

So you're a local musician, tell me about your music?
I started writing songs when I was 12. That's the one constant in my musical life, not that I'm 12, but that I've continued to write songs. I still feel like I'm 12 some days, though. I've played in a few cover tune bands and toured most of Western Canada up until a little over 10 years ago. I needed to take a break, get off the road, and be closer to my family.

You have been selected as Pride Parade marshal, how exciting is that?
It's extremely exciting and something I'll always cherish. It's even a greater honour to be the Grand Marshal for the 20th anniversary Pride!

What kind of events will you be involved with this weekend and week?
I'm part of the organizing committee for the first annual Calgary Dyke March, which takes place at noon on Saturday. Sunday is the big event, the 20th anniversary Gay Pride Parade, which starts at noon. I get to ride shotgun in a swanky car and lead this year's parade.

How have Pride celebrations in Calgary grown over the past 10 years?
Pride activities have grown in quality and in quantity. From the outside looking in, I see a group of people who have taken real ownership of Calgary's Pride celebrations with a passion and commitment that continues to raise the bar for future Pride celebrations in our city. Visibility and attendance also grows every year.

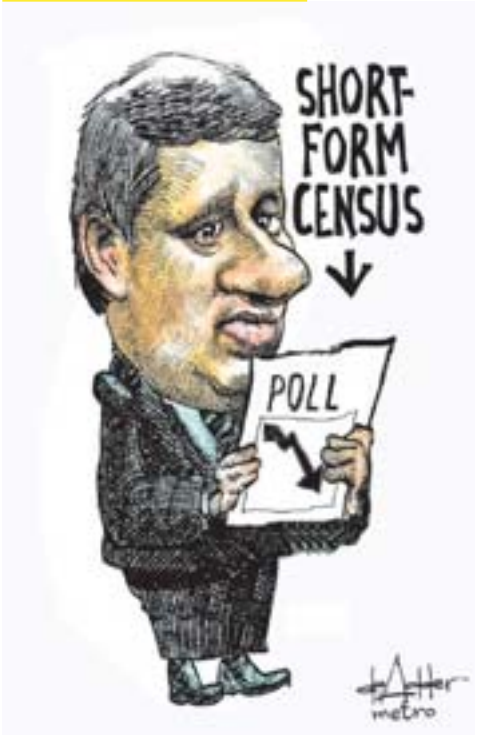
What do you do in your spare time?
Spare time, that's funny. All fun aside, I love camping, watching movies, and I am a crazy woman in the kitchen. I love cooking with no recipes. My family mostly puts up with my inventions. We have a will.

What's next?
We're doing lots of shows, recording a song and hoping to shoot some videos. Just trying our best to stay out of trouble, but with this group of girls sometimes that's hard. We're also planning a tour later this winter and doing some more writing as a group. And my dream is to make it on the Ellen show.

KRISTA SYLVESTER

Cartoon

MICHAEL DE ADDER



Sun setting on summer

Letters & Tweets

We asked: What's a sure sign summer is ending?

TORONTO. My birthday is Aug. 27, and that always was the end of summer for me because when I was young, in a week's time it was back to school; the days are shorter and it gets a little cooler at night.
STEPHEN NOBLE

We asked: What's better: Summer or winter?

VANCOUVER. @MattVanDeventer: Winter is way better because it's easier to stay warm than it is to keep cool. Summer is for kids, winter is for men.

VANCOUVER. @heatbagger Summer in Vancouver. Winter in Hawaii.

We asked: What's your biggest pet peeve?

OTTAWA. My biggest pet peeve is tailgaters. They really don't think or care about the consequences if the vehicle in front of them has to brake fast. Not the brightest drivers on the road.
BRAD MCGOWAN

We asked: Finish this sentence: To be successful, you must …

TORONTO. To be successful you must be honest, sincere, and have a terrible sense of humour.
WALTER DUPCZAK

Enjoy it while it lasts

What favourite food puts you in a great mood?

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Metro Minute at BBQ championship

Barbecue anyone? Saturday and Sunday, Eau Claire Market will host Canada's oldest barbecue competition — the Alberta BBQ Championships.

Barbecue championships started more than 20 years ago in the United States. Now, they are found in nearly 500 cities across Canada and the United States. The BBQ On The Bow Society wants all Calgarians to get in some of those last sunny summer days at the grill.

There will be free live local bands, song and dance, paired with great grilling for families, and fun activities for the kids downtown. Free parking on Sunday at Eau Claire Market 101-3rd St.

METRO CALGARY

Three days to play

WITH 114 DAYS UNTIL CHRISTMAS, HAVE YOU STARTED YOUR SHOPPING YET?

Irene Benoit
CALGARY
Actually, I've got a couple things I saw on sale but nothing official. Normally, I wait until December at least.

Rob McDonald
CALGARY
It hasn't even crossed my mind yet. I am the guy who buys things at the last minute because I'm so busy. That's how I roll.

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- Original Resident Evil director Paul W.S. Anderson returns for fourth installment
- Anderson and series star Jovovich make it a family business
- Clones, zombies and plenty of over-the-top action scenes all in 3-D

▶ Mila Jovovich stars as Alice in Resident Evil: Afterlife which opens next Friday.

Evil gets sent to the Afterlife

CHRIS ALEXANDER
SCENE@METRONEWS.CA

Eight years ago, filmmaker Paul W.S. Anderson resurrected the dead with his slick, sexy, violent adaptation of the hot Capcom videogame Resident Evil, making a killing at the box office and spawning two Anderson penned and produced sequels.

Charting the rise, fall and rise again of the evil Umbrella empire, the series follows the sexy Alice (Mila Jovovich) as she battles the unstoppable zombie making "T-Virus" and the freakish corporate-created creatures that walk, run and slither among them.

Now, after surrendering final cut on the last two pictures, Anderson returns to the directorial folds with the hotly anticipated Resident Evil: Afterlife, the fourth and most over-the-top entry in the series and the first to be shot in 3-D. More importantly, Anderson is returning to direct his wife and the mother of his child. That's right, after falling in love on the set of the first Evil, Jovovich and Anderson tied the knot.

"Obviously, the Resident Evil world is a huge part of our daily lives," says the lovely actress.

"We constantly bat ideas back and for the and let's just say that draft one will never be seen by anyone. It got a lot of boiling water from his wife."

Afterlife finds the now scientifically altered Alice still wandering the earth, trying to rescue pockets of human survivors from the flesh hungry hordes of the living dead while trying to evade the wrath of the power mad Umbrella Corporation and an army of her own clones in a series of stunning, state of the art action sequences.

"The clones are all me," Jovovich says.

"I play each and every one of them. I told the producers that they should actually pay me by clone as it's incredibly dif-

Toronto ties

Resident Evil: Afterlife was lensed in Toronto and features many familiar faces like Kim Coates (Silent Hill) and Shawn Roberts (Diary of the Dead) in central roles. The second installment in the franchise, Resident Evil: Apocalypse was also shot in the GTA and featured a climax where Jovovich runs down the side of an exploding Toronto City Hall.

2 scene

News in brief

The former television producer who tried to blackmail David Letterman over the comedian's office affairs was freed from jail Thursday, city Correction Department records show.

Robert "Joe" Halderman served four months of his six-month sentence in the case, which exposed Letterman's personal life to public scrutiny.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

September 2nd celebrated as '90210 Day,' an ode to 'Beverly Hills, 90210'

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Distance falls short

Going The Distance
Genre: Comedy
Director: Nanette Burstein
Stars: Drew Barrymore, Justin Long, Charlie Day
●●

Going The Distance desperately wants to be an R-rated romantic/comedy like Knocked Up or There's Something About Mary that appeals equally to both sexes (swears n' gross outs for the boys and love for the girls).

Unfortunately it's weighed down by far too much studio calculation to fool audiences. The R-rated gags seem forced and the relationship drama is little more than a collection of clichés. Even the casting of real life couple Drew Barrymore and Justin Long feels like a cold marketing ploy.

The plot revolves around Barrymore and Long who fall in love in New York one summer, but are in a cross-country relationship by the fall. Oh, how painful long distance relationships can be!

Admittedly, the supporting roles are filled with talented comedic actors who clearly improvised some great gags like Christina Applegate, Jason Sudeikis, Jim Gaffigan, and Charlie Day. The problem is that any time the filmmakers lose the supporting players to focus on the main plot, the laughs screech to a halt.

There are some funny things going on in Going The Distance, but they're sadly limited to the peripheries while Barrymore and Long trudge through the boring rom-com motions in the foreground. ● PHIL BROWN

Machete
Genre: Action
Directors: Robert Rodriguez and Ethan Maniquis
Stars: Danny Trejo, Robert DeNiro, Steven Seagal
●●●

Machete is just your typical movie about a day-labourer/assassin/ex-federale forced to kill a corrupt senator hell-bent on shutting down the U.S./Mexican border with all of the machine guns, explosions, nudity, and acrobatic disembowelings that implies. Cheap thrills, exploitation, and bad taste are the key ingredients in this campy cocktail from director Robert Rodriguez, who has made a career out of movies dedicated to unrelenting dirty fun. This Grindhouse spin off is one of his most entertaining flicks to date and while it drags on too long and the halfhearted attempts at illegal immigration commentary get grating, it all feels like part of the deliberately cheesy style. ● PHIL BROWN

More online

For more movie information, go online to metronews.ca.

What's online More reviews and listings of showtimes in your area.

The Human Centipede
Genre: Horror/Comedy
Director: Tom Six
Stars: Dieter Laser, Ashley C. Williams, Ashlynn Yennie
●●●●

So much sensational ink has been spilled about director Tom Six's outrageous shocker The Human Centipede that there's a danger that it might not live up to the horrible hype. Rest assured it does. The already notorious picture sees a lunatic German scientist (Dieter Laser) create the titular beast by sewing three unlucky victim's mouths and anus' together. ● CHRIS ALEXANDER

In Focus

RICHARD CROUSE
SCENE@METRONEWS.CA

ASSASSINS COME IN ALL SHAPES & SIZES

▶ In The American George Clooney adds to the long line of Hollywood hitmen.

There are many types of movies about people who deal in death to make a living. There's the cold blooded killer story, the revenge drama and even comedic takes on killing for fun and profit. Assassins can be men, women, children and even robots. In this week's The American George Clooney plays another kind of murder engineer, the troubled, introspective assassin. There are as many kinds of cinematic killers as there are kinds of weapons for them to use. Here's a look back at the philosophies of some of the screen's most memorable death merchants.

Charles Bronson, as the skilled slayer in The Mechanic (soon to be remade with Jason Statham and Ben Foster), teaches his young protégé, played by Jan-Michael Vincent, some basic hitman lessons. "Murder is only killing without a license," he says, adding that when you shoot someone do it right. "You always have to be dead sure. Dead sure or dead."

That's key killer advice, but slow down, there is a progression to becoming a hitman. In The Professional Leon (Jean Reno) details the system. "The rifle is the first weapon you learn how to use," he says, "because it lets you keep your distance from the client. The closer you get to being a pro, the closer you can get to the client. The knife, for example, is the last thing you learn."

Along the way movie assassins also learn that relationships are verboten. Remember what happened to Mr. and Mrs. Smith (Brad Pitt and Angelina Jolie)? "Your aim's as bad as your cooking sweetheart," taunts John to Jane, "and that's saying something!" Day of the Jackal's would-be Charles de Gaulle assassin (Edward Fox) adds, "In this work you simply can't afford to be emotional," although sometimes feelings inevitably get in the way. Just ask Prizzi's Honor's Charley Partanna (Jack Nicholson) who memorably said, "Do I ice her? Do I marry her?"

Once they've learned the ropes, one question remains: Why do movie assassins kill?

Max Von Sydow plays one of the great movie killers in Three Days of the Condor, Sydney Lumet's classic story of conspiracies and murder. His reasoning for doing what he does is chillingly simple. "The fact is, what I do is not a bad occupation," he says. "Someone is always willing to pay." The Matador's Julian Noble (Pierce Brosnan) agrees, "My business is my pleasure," he said.

MILLA JOVOVICH
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KEVIN WINTER/GETTY IMAGES

▶ Actors Olivia Wilde, Garrett Hedlund, Jeff Bridges and Bruce Boxleitner pose at the Tron: Legacy panel during Comic-Con 2010 on July 22, 2010 in San Diego, Calif.

Original Tron excited for sequel

27 years after original was all but ignored by public and critics hype keeps growing for Tron: Legacy

PHIL BROWN
SCENE@METRONEWS.CA

Geeks filled the Metro Convention Centre last weekend for FanExpo 2010, a Canuck Comic-Con honouring comic books, sci-fi, horror, and anime.

One of the highlights was a special presentation of early footage from the upcoming blockbuster sequel Tron: Legacy to a packed house of giddy fanboys. The original Tron himself, Bruce Boxleitner was on hand to introduce the footage and chatted with Metro about the impact of his cult classic and the highly anticipated sequel.

"Tron was an acting job that I damn near turned down because I didn't understand it," laughed the actor. "I saw some early test footage and was so impressed that I had to do it. We thought it would be a big hit, but I guess that took a while."

Audiences didn't know what to make of the techno adventure in 1982. Video games and computers weren't exactly mainstream at the time, but as they took over our culture the film developed a loyal audience.

"The reaction then and now are as different as night and day," admitted Boxleitner.

"It happened slowly. I've done sci-fi conventions for Babylon 5 for a while now and about 10-15 years ago I started to sign Tron memorabilia. I've signed betamaxes, VHS tapes, laser discs, and DVDs. The popularity has grown right along with the technology over the years and no matter what I go out to promote, everyone wants to talk about Tron."

The popularity has grown substantially enough for a sequel to be produced a shocking 27 years after the original.

"That's what I think is the real story," said Boxleitner. "They take maybe a year off between Harry Potter movies, but to return after 27 years? That's pretty special."

The sequel seems to be designed for the ever-growing cult of Tron and while the fans are excited, it's tough to say how it will play with general audiences.

"That's going to be the question," admitted the actor. "I think it's permeated the culture enough that most people know Tron now and the technology is more accessible. But who knows? I'm excited to find out."

"I didn't miss the tights and that damn belt on this one and I'm glad that I didn't have to wear the new Tron suits either. The suits actually have built in lights this time and apparently there was some short-circuiting going on. If you sweated too much inside, you'd get shocked and I guess it happened to (lead actor Garrett Hedlund) a bunch of times"
BRUCE BOXLEITNER, ON THE TRON SUITS

Extra injured in Transformers shoot

Indiana State Police say an extra at a Transformers 3 production site was seriously injured during the filming of a stunt.

Authorities say the Transformers 3 crew was filming late Wednesday in the Chicago suburb of Hammond, Ind., using several vehicles and drivers. Police say something went wrong and an object went through the windshield of a car, hitting the driver.

In a statement, police said the vehicle kept going for a mile before stopping.

Police did not release the driver's name. The person was airlifted to a hospital.

Transformers 3 crews have been filming in the Chicago area all summer.

The movie stars Shia LaBeouf, Patrick Dempsey, Frances McDormand, John Malkovich and model Rosie Huntington-Whiteley. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

THESE PAGES COVER MOVIE START TIMES FROM FRI., SEPT. 3 TO THURS., SEP. 9. TIMES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE. COMPLETE LISTINGS ARE ALSO AVAILABLE AT METRONEWS.CA/MOVIES.

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Bay 110 13226 Macleod Trail, 403-670-5444

Cats & Dogs: The Revenge of Kitty Galore (G) Fri-Thu 12:55-4:10-7
Charlie St. Cloud (PG) Fri-Thu 3:45-7:30-9:55
Get Him to the Greek (18A) Fri-Thu 9:45
Grown Ups (PG) Fri-Thu 1:10-3:30-7:10-10
How to Train Your Dragon (PG) Fri-Thu 1:35
Iron Man 2 (PG) Fri-Thu 9:50
The Karate Kid (PG) Fri-Thu 1:3:55-7
Knight and Day (PG) Fri-Thu 1:05-3:40-6:50-9:55
The Last Airbender (PG) Fri-Thu 1:20-4:05-7:25
Prince of Persia: The Sands of Time (PG) Fri-Thu 9:25
Ramona and Beezus (G) Fri-Thu 1:30-4:15-6:45
Robin Hood (14A) Fri-Thu 9:20
Sex and the City 2 (14A) Fri-Thu 9:30
Shrek Forever After (PG) Fri-Thu 1:25-4:10-7:20
The Sorcerer's Apprentice (PG) Fri-Thu 1:15-3:50-7:05-9:40
The Twilight Saga: Eclipse (PG) Fri-Thu 12:45-3:35-6:55-9:40

CROWFOOT CROSSING
91 Crowfoot Terrace, 403-547-3316

The American (14A) Fri-Tue 1:40-4:25-7:35-10:20 Wed 4:25-7:35-10:20 Thu 1:40-4:25-7:35-10:20 Star & Strollers Screening Wed 1
Despicable Me 3D (G) Fri-Thu 2:20-4:30-6:50-9:40
Eat Pray Love (PG) Fri-Thu 12:55-4-7:10
The Expendables (STC) Fri-Thu 1:10-4:20-7:15-9:50
Going the Distance (18A) No Passes Fri-Thu 1:15-3:55-7:10-9:45
Inception (PG) Fri-Thu 1-4:15-8
The Last Exorcism (14A) Fri-Thu 1:55-4:25-7:40-10:25
Machete (18A) No Passes Fri-Thu 1:30-4:10-7:50-10:20
Nanny McPhee Returns (G) Fri-Thu 2-4:40-7:05
The Other Guys (PG) Fri-Thu 1:50-4:20-7:25-10:10
Scott Pilgrim vs. the World (PG) Fri-Thu 9:35
The Switch (PG) Fri-Tue 2:10-4:45-7:30-10:05 Wed 4:45-7:30-10:05 Thu 2:10-4:45-7:30-10:05 Star & Strollers Screening Wed 1
Takers (PG) Fri-Thu 1:20-4:05-7:20-9:55

EAU CLAIRE MARKET
200 Barlay Parade, 403-263-3166

The American (14A) Fri 7-9:40 Sat-Mon 12:20-3:30-7-9:40 Tue-Thu 7-9:35
Eat Pray Love (PG) Fri 6:30-10 Sat-Mon 12-3:20-6:30-10 Tue-Thu 6:30-9:40
The Expendables (STC) Fri 7:10-9:50 Sat-Mon 12:50-3:50-7:10-9:50 Tue-Thu 7:10-9:45
Get Low (PG) Fri 6:40-9:20 Sat-Mon 12:40-3:40-6:40-9:20 Tue-Thu 6:40-9:25
Going the Distance (18A) No Passes Fri 6:50-9:30 No Passes Sat-Mon 12:10-3:10-6:50-9:30 No Passes Tue-Thu 6:50-9:30
Inception (PG) Fri 8 Sat-Mon 12:30-4-8 Tue-Thu 8

EMPIRE STUDIO 16 COUNTRY HILLS
388 Country Hills Blvd., 403-686-8491

The American (14A) No Passes, SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 1-3:40-7-9:45
Avatar: Special Edition 3D (PG) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating, No Passes Fri-Sun 12:30-4:10-8 SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Mon-Tue 12:30-4:10-8 SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Wed-Thu 4:10-8
Despicable Me (G) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Tue 12:20 SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Wed-Thu 1:15
Dinner for Schmucks (14A) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Tue 12:40-3:30-6:55 SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Wed-Thu 1-3:45-6:55
Eat Pray Love (PG) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Tue 12:25-3:45-6:50-10 SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Wed-Thu 3:45-6:50-10
The Expendables (STC) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 1:50-4:30-7:30-10:05
Going the Distance (18A) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating, No Passes Fri-Thu 1:05-3:50-7:10-9:40
Inception (PG) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Tue 12:15-3:30-6:40-9:55 SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Wed-Thu 3:30-6:40-9:55
The Last Exorcism (14A) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 1:30-4:20-7:35-9:50
Macheté (18A) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 2-4:40-7:40-10:15
Nanny McPhee Returns (G) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Tue 12:10-3:10-6:45-9:25 SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Wed-Thu 1:05-3:50-6:45-9:25
The Other Guys (PG) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 1:20-4-6:55-9:30
Piranha 3D (18A) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 10:10
Salt (14A) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Mon 1:40-4:15-7:25-9:55 Stadium Seating, SR Dolby Digital Tue 1:40-4:15-7:25-9:55 SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Wed-Thu 1:40-4:15-7:25-9:55
Scott Pilgrim vs. the World (PG) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 4:05-7:05-10
The Switch (PG) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Tue 12:50-3:20-7:15-9:45 SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Wed-Thu 1:20-4:20-7:15-9:45
Takers (PG) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Tue 1:10-3:55-7:20-10:05 SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Wed-Thu 1:10-4:25-7:20-10:05
Toy Story 3 3D (G) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Tue 12-3-6:30 SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Wed-Thu 1-3:35-6:30
Vampires Suck (14A) Stadium Seating, SR Dolby Digital Fri-Thu 9:35

▶ Flipped opened across Canada last week.

EMPIRE STUDIO 10 MACLEOD TRAIL
100-16061 MacLeod Trail, 403-974-0470

The American (14A) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 12:40-3:15-7:15-10
Despicable Me 3D (G) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 12:45-3:50-6:30
Eat Pray Love (PG) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 12:30-3:40-6:45-9:50
The Expendables (STC) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 1:45-4:40-7:30-10:15
Going the Distance (18A) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 1-3:30-7-9:40
Inception (PG) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 12:50-4:20-8
The Last Exorcism (14A) Stadium Seating, SR Dolby Digital Fri-Thu 2-4:45-7:20-10:05
Machete (18A) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 1:30-4:30-7:40-10:10
The Other Guys (PG) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 1:20-4-7:10-9:55
The Switch (PG) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 9:20
Takers (PG) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 1:10-4:10-6:50-9:30

GLOBE CINEMA
617-8 Avenue, 403-262-3308

Animal Kingdom (14A) Fri 7-9:20 Sat-Mon 1-3:20-7-9:20 Tue-Thu 7-9:20
Coco Chanel & Igor Stravinsky (18A) Fri 6:50-9:15 Sat-Mon 12:50-3:15-6:50-9:15 Tue-Thu 6:50-9:15

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Cats & Dogs: The Revenge of Kitty Galore (G) Fri-Thu 1:10-3:55-6:40
Charlie St. Cloud (PG) Fri-Thu 7:05-10
Grown Ups (PG) Fri-Thu 12:55-3:40-7:10-9:40
The Karate Kid (PG) Fri-Thu 12:45-4:10-8
Knight and Day (PG) Fri-Thu 6:55-9:50
The Last Airbender (PG) Fri-Thu 1:3:50-7-9:55
Ramona and Beezus (G) Fri-Thu 12:55-3:45
Shrek Forever After (PG) Fri-Thu 1:05
The Sorcerer's Apprentice (PG) Fri-Thu 12:50-3:35-6:50-9:45
The Twilight Saga: Eclipse (PG) Fri-Thu 12:45-3:35-6:45-9:35

SCOTIABANK CHINOOK
6455 MacLeod Trail, 403-212-8994

The American (14A) Fri-Thu 1-4:05-7:15-10:15
Avatar: Special Edition 3D (PG) Fri-Wed 12-4-7:55 Thu 12-4-8
Casablanca (STC) Wed 7
Despicable Me 3D (G) Fri-Thu 12:10-2:30-4:50-7:20-10:05
Dinner for Schmucks (14A) Fri-Thu 4:15-7:05-10
Eat Pray Love (PG) Fri-Thu 12:05-3:20-7:10:10
The Expendables (STC) Fri-Tue 1:15-4:20-7:25-10:25 Wed 7:20 Thu 7:25 Wed-Thu 1:15-4:20-10:25
Going the Distance (18A) No Passes Fri-Wed 1-3:45-7:15-10:05 No Passes Thu 3:45-7:15-10:05 Star & Strollers Screening, No Passes Thu 1
Inception: The IMAX Experience (PG) Fri-Mon 12-3:30-7-10:30 Tue-Thu 3:30-7-10:15
The Last Exorcism (14A) Fri-Thu 12:25-2:45-5:10-7:35-10:30
Machete (18A) No Passes Fri-Thu 1:20-4:20-7:30-10:15
Nanny McPhee Returns (G) Fri-Thu 12:45-3:35-6:55-10:05
The Other Guys (PG) Fri-Thu 12:20-3:15-6:50-9:45
Piranha 3D (18A) Fri-Tue 12:15-2:40-5:10-7:45-10:25 Wed 12:15-2:40-5:10-10:25 Thu 12:15-2:40-5:10-7:45-10:25
Salt (14A) Fri-Thu 9:50
Scott Pilgrim vs. the World (PG) Fri-Wed 12:50-4-7:10-10 Thu 4-7:10-10 Star & Strollers Screening Thu 1
The Switch (PG) Fri-Thu 1:30-4:25-7:25-10:20
Takers (PG) Fri-Thu 1:10-4:05-7:05-10:10
Toy Story 3 (G) Fri-Thu 1:05
Vampires Suck (14A) Fri-Tue 12:15-2:20-4:30-7:20 Wed-Thu 12:15-2:20-4:30

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Babies (PG) Sat-Mon 12
The Human Centipede (18A) Fri-Sat 5:10-11 Sun-Mon 5:10-9:10 Tue 4:30-10 Wed-Thu 9:10
Mid-August Lunch (PG) Fri 3:30 Sat-Mon 1:30
Restrepo (14A) Fri 7-9 Sat 3-7-9 Sun-Mon 3-7 Tue 8:15 Wed-Thu 7
The Rocky Horror Picture Show (14A) Sun-Mon 11:30

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The American (14A) Fri-Thu 12:35-3:25-7:25-10:30
Chak Jawana (PG) Fri-Thu 6:55
Dinner for Schmucks (14A) Fri-Thu 2:55-7:20-10:25
Eat Pray Love (PG) Fri-Tue 12-3:25-6:45-10:10 Wed 6:45-10:10 Thu 12-3:25-6:45-10:10 Star & Strollers Screening Wed 1
The Expendables (STC) Fri-Thu 12:50-3:55-7:30-10:15
Going the Distance (18A) No Passes Fri-Tue 12:25-3:10-6:55-9:40 No Passes Wed 3:30-6:55-9:40 No Passes Thu 12:25-3:10-6:55-9:40 Star & Strollers Screening, No Passes Wed 1
Inception (PG) Fri-Thu 12:05-3:30-10
The Last Exorcism (14A) Fri-Thu 1-3:35-7:35-10:20
Machete (18A) No Passes Fri-Thu 1:10-4-7:05-9:55
Nanny McPhee Returns (G) Fri-Thu 12:20
The Other Guys (PG) Fri-Thu 12:55-3:45-6:35-9:30
Piranha 3D (18A) Fri-Thu 1:05-3:50-7-9:30
Scott Pilgrim vs. the World (PG) Fri-Thu 3:15-7:20-10:20
Step Up 3D (PG) Fri-Thu 12:45-3:40-6:40-9:35
The Switch (PG) Fri-Thu 12:15-3:05-7:10-9:50
Takers (PG) Fri-Thu 12:30-3:20-7:15-10:05
Vampires Suck (14A) Fri-Thu 12:10

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I Am Love (18A) Fri 4:30-9:10 Sat-Mon 12:10-4:30-9:10 Tue-Thu 4:30-9:10
Joan Rivers: A Piece of Work (14A) Fri 7:10-9 Sat-Mon 12:30-2:20-7:10-9 Tue-Thu 7:10-9
The Kids Are All Right (18A) Fri 4:40-7 Sat-Mon 2:30-4:40-7 Tue-Wed 4:40-7 Thu 4:40

WESTHILLS 10
165 Stewart Green, 403-246-5291

The American (14A) Fri-Mon 1:30-4:10-7:40-10:20 Tue-Thu 5:40-8:05
Despicable Me 3D (G) Fri-Mon 1:20-3:55-6:50 Tue 5:35-7:45 Wed 4:35 Thu 5:35-7:45
Eat Pray Love (PG) Fri-Mon 12:20-3:50-7:10 Tue-Thu 5:30-8:20
The Expendables (STC) Fri-Mon 1:40-4:05-8-10:30 Tue-Thu 5:45-8:10
Going the Distance (18A) No Passes Fri-Mon 12:55-3:20-7:20-9:55 No Passes Tue-Thu 6:20-8:50
Inception (PG) Fri-Mon 12:35-3:35-6:40-9:50 Tue-Thu 5:15-8:35
The Last Exorcism (14A) Fri-Mon 12:40-3-7:10-9:30 Tue-Thu 6:05-8:45
Machete (18A) No Passes Fri-Mon 12:45-3:10-7:30-10:10 No Passes Tue-Thu 6:30-9
The Other Guys (PG) Fri-Mon 1-3:30-7:05-9:40 Tue-Thu 6:10-8:40
Piranha 3D (18A) Fri-Mon 9:20
Salt (14A) Fri-Mon 1:50-4:20-7:50-10:15 Tue-Thu 5:35-7:55

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So many shows, so little time

You already have to keep up with your slate of favourite returning shows, so how do you carve out more hours to sample the newcomers? Prioritize, of course. Here are some new series that deserve an early look.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Nikita, CW
Premieres Sept. 9
An action-packed reboot of the 1990 film and TV series, this Nikita is a slick celebration of conspiracy and sexy gals who mean to put a stop to it.

Lone Star, Global
Premieres Sept. 20
A charismatic con man is married to one beautiful woman and shacking up with another. Lone Star is a solid drama of a man in conflict who needs it all.

No Ordinary Family, CTV
Premieres Sept. 28
A police sketch artist feels meek at work and home with his not-so-happy family. Then, through the oddest of quirks, they all gain superpowers.

Hawaii Five-O, Global
Premieres Sept. 20
This version of the 1970s original is a miracle of souped-up restoration. Alex O'Loughlin plays simmering Steve McGarrett, who's got a score to settle with some very bad people.

Outsourced, Global
Premieres Sept. 23
When a Kansas City call centre is "right-sized," Todd is dispatched to India to manage it. Besides its spot-on timeliness, it deftly harvests laughs from the inevitable culture clash.

Hellcats, CW
Premieres Sept. 8
It's almost laughably formulaic, but the formula works like a charm. Pre-law student Marti scorns her university's cheerleading squad, but suddenly she needs to join the squad to keep her all-important scholarship. As luck would have it, Marti was a gymnastics champ in high school. Hellcats is one part youth melodrama, one part Glee in skimpy spandex.

The Event, City TV
Premieres Sept. 20
If you miss Lost, check out this season's only new entry in the serial thriller genre. The Event demands a week-to-week commitment to make any sense of the conspiracy at its core.

Raising Hope, Global
Premieres Sept. 21
Greg Garcia, creator of My Name is Earl, is back with a new brood of lovable losers in this wacked-out family comedy, where the son, Jimmy, finds out he's the father of a baby girl.

Running Wilde, Fox
Premieres Sept. 21
An oil tycoon's spoiled son, Steve, wants to reconnect with his childhood sweetheart Emmy. But she's now an environmentalist whose tree-hugging zeal clashes with Wilde Oil.

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Tribute to steel city

New Luke Doucet album dedicated to adopted home of Hamilton

GRAHAM ROCKINGHAM
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Most people see Hamilton as nothing but smokestacks, slag heaps and steel mills.

But Luke Doucet has discovered a different side of the southern Ontario industrial town. Since moving there two and a half years ago with his wife, singer-songwriter Melissa McClelland, Doucet has spent a lot of time jogging along Hamilton's streets and trails. The Winnipeg-raised, Nova Scotia-born musician has come to appreciate the wealth of parkland, century-old architecture and scenic waterfront. He now calls it home.

Doucet has called his sixth solo CD Steel City Trawler. The album even contains a 20-page mini-comic by Hamilton artist David Collier. In it, Doucet takes readers on a frame-by-frame tour of the city — up and down the escarpment steps, along the Bruce Trail conservation lands and into the core to visit its record stores and drinking establishments.

The 11 tracks, including a rocked-up version of Gordon Lightfoot's Sundown, aren't necessarily written about Hamilton, but Doucet makes the point that they were all born in the Steel City.

"This album is really more of a dedication to the city," Doucet says over beers at one of Hamilton`s top live music venues.

Doucet is perhaps best known as Sarah McLachlan's lead guitarist. But the 37-year-old musician also has developed a respected career as a singer, songwriter and producer. He released three albums with the indie Vancouver band Veal between 1996 and 2003 and produced three records for McClelland.

The music on Steel City Trawler is rough-hewn guitar-powered rock, in the tradition of Tom Petty and the Heartbreakers, Bruce Springsteen and the E-Street Band or Neil Young and Crazy Horse. He's considered one of Canada's best guitarists. Doucet likes to think he's earned that reputation by playing from the heart.

"Keith Richards, Neil Young, Springsteen, these guys aren't what you'd call sophisticated guitarists, but they're passionate and they're the best," says Doucet. "I learned a long time ago, when I've got a guitar in my hands, don't be sophisticated, be passionate."

▶ Streel City Trawler is the new album from Luke Doucet, pictured, and the White Falcon.

Sound Check

ALAN CROSS
SCENE@METRONEWS.CA

THE SECRET WORLD OF LIP-SYNCING

Ever since STP singer Scott Weiland fell off the stage in Ohio last month, much has been postulated about how he managed to keep singing without sounding like a guy falling off a stage. Was he lip-syncing? Is STP using backing vocal tracks to enhance their live performances? Or is Weiland just such a pro that he was able to carry on without losing his place?

My guesses: (a) Not really; (b) Maybe; (c) Possibly.

Lip-syncing has been a part of live performances for decades. Anyone who's ever watched the BBC's Top of the Pops knows that. Today, backing tracks and other forms of vocal assistance are done so slickly that we don't even notice.

Audiences expect perfection for the money they pay hence the use of vocal augmentation by an unseen singer offstage (hello, Ozzy!); pre-recorded vocal tracks (Britney, GaGa, etc) so that the performer sounds perfect even as he/she runs through all their dance moves; and real-time pitch correction in the vocals so the singer never sounds flat (just about everybody).

But we can also underestimate how masterful some singers are. I saw U2 play a two-hour set in Moscow last week even though I was right up against the stage, Bono appeared to be singing every word without a croak. Then again, I've also heard that segments of the 360 Tour are "tracked" because of the complexity of the stage show. I've also heard stories about AC/DC's rigid set list. "If they wanted to change the set list," one insider told me, "they would have had to gone back into the studio."

And let's not confuse this with the crimes of Milli Vanilli. That band was fronted by two guys who didn't sing a note on their own albums. They merely mimed someone else's performances and tried to keep it secret. Today's singers are singing along (mostly) with themselves.

Some people don't care. They want their favourite songs performed perfectly, even though the singer can't reach the high notes anymore. Then there are those who believe that backing tracks destroy the authenticity of the live performance and the spirit of rock 'n' roll. For the record, Weiland denies he was lip-syncing. And even if he was, this won't change anything. Backing tracks and other forms of PA trickery are here to stay.

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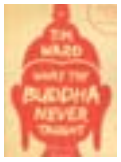
Buddha Never Taught



Books
Tim Ward's book about his experiences leaving Canada and travelling on a six- year journey to the abbeys of Southeast Asia to join Buddhist monks is celebrating its 20th anniversary with a new edition. The book is full of colourful characters, buzzing mosquitoes, humour and insight.

Roots Tuff Skin

Tech
Now your iPhone can get the iconic Canadian treatment — and protection — it deserves. Roots has teamed up with Tuff Skin to produce a rubber case and carrying holster that proudly features a maple leaf. The case is made out of a silicon rubber and is designed for easy gripping.

Score: A Hockey Musical

Film
Looks like everyone wants to score this fall. The movie-musical, which stars a bevy of well-known Canucks — Nelly Furtado, hockey dad Walter Gretzky — and Olivia Newton John, is opening five film festivals across the country, including those in Toronto, Halifax, Edmonton and Cal

Awesome Things

Internet
Stopping to smell the roses is so clichéd. Instead, head to this award-winning blog by Neil Pasricha. Among the little things in life you should remember? Being able to pass off your own fart as your dog's, and taking off plastic wrap without getting it stuck to itself.
1000awesomethings.com

The Vampire Diaries

TV
The first season of Vampire Diaries — that brooding show full of bloodlust and romance — is now available on DVD. Watch vamp-bros Stefan and Damon battle it out in the fictional town of Mystic Falls, VA. The Blu-ray and DVD includes eight hours of bonus features, including four featurettes.

MacGruber

DVD
You can now take home this movie featuring Will Forte's handy SNL character. Kristen Wiig and Ryan Phillipe are along for the ride as MacGruber is called out of retirement to take down his archenemy.

Metro pick

▶ The comedy Modern Family picked up several Emmy Awards last weekend.

Modern Family

Awards
This comedy romp has been causing chuckles on the small screen for the last few months, and the Emmy Awards took notice, honouring the series with a number of awards, including best comedy, an acting award and best writing.

Mix of Six

Okotoks Pro Rodeo: The Okotoks Pro Rodeo is held annually and in this year they are celebrating their 19th year. September 3 to 5 at the Okotoks Recreation Centre.
43rd Annual Cochrane Rodeo: Women of the West is a celebration of the women who helped settle Cochrane: homesteaders, homemakers, ranchers, entrepreneurs, outlaws, cattle drivers — pioneers, every last one of them.September 3 to 6 at the Cochrane Rodeo Grounds.
Calgary Highland Games: The skirl of the pipes, the beating of the drums are sounds that many of our ancestors proudly followed into battle in defence of their beloved Scotland. September 4 at Springbank Park for All Seasons.
BBQ on the Bow Festival: The 18th annual festival is a two-day, free, family event held on the Labour Day weekend at Eau Claire Festival Market Plaza.
Pride Calgary Weekend: The annual parade is an opportunity for people of all genders, sexual orientations, and walks of life to unite and march together. Sept. 4 and 5 at Olympic Plaza.
Heterophobia: Imagine a world where gay was the norm and "straight" was the perversion. This play examines that theory. Sept. 1 to 11 at the EPCOR Centre .

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Is Ashton stepping out on Demi Moore?

- Star magazine reporting former Punk'd star was seen kissing a woman who was not his wife
- Kutcher threatens legal action

Ashton Kutcher, who has been married to Demi Moore for five years, was allegedly spotted getting frisky with a mystery blonde at an Italian restaurant in Los Angeles, according to Star magazine.

"Ashton had this gorgeous girl pinned against the wall, and he was totally making out with her," a source tells the magazine.

"I was shocked to see him sucking face with a girl who obviously wasn't Demi."

Kutcher has been quick to address the rumors.

"I think Star magazine calling me a 'cheater' qualifies as defamation of character...I hope my lawyer agrees."
ASHTON KUTCHER, VIA TWITTER

"I think Star magazine calling me a 'cheater' qualifies as defamation of character," the actor posted on his Twitter account. "I hope my lawyer agrees." METRO

GETTY IMAGES

▶ Ashton Kutcher

Talking points

Celine denies tabloid report

AT LEAST SHE'S NOT DENYING HER PREGNANCY LIKE SOME PEOPLE...WE'RE LOOKING AT YOU MARIAH Celine Dion doesn't appreciate a recent French tabloid report that she was rushed to the hospital because of complications with her pregnancy.

"She's never been in the hospital. Her pregnancy continues to be healthy and she feels fantastic," her rep tells People magazine.

"They've gotten calls from friends worried that something is wrong. To be so happy and then to get these calls, it's been upsetting for them when they are in such a good place."

Dion is expecting to give birth to twins in November. METRO

No dancing shoes for some

NO REAL SURPRISE AS THOSE OTHER STARS HAVE ACTUAL JOBS The cast for the new season of Dancing with the Stars is set, topped by David Hasselhoff, Bristol Palin and Jersey Shore star the Situation.

But what's even more interesting is who said no to the reality show.

Sylvester Stallone, Richard Branson, Joel McHale and Condoleezza Rice were all offered spots but passed, according to the Hollywood Reporter.

The Situation will be lacing up his shoes. He's also the only one with a job

"People say no for a variety of reasons," executive producer Conrad Green says. "Some people like the show but think they suck at dancing. It's a lot easier to say no than it is to say yes." METRO

Celebrity tweets

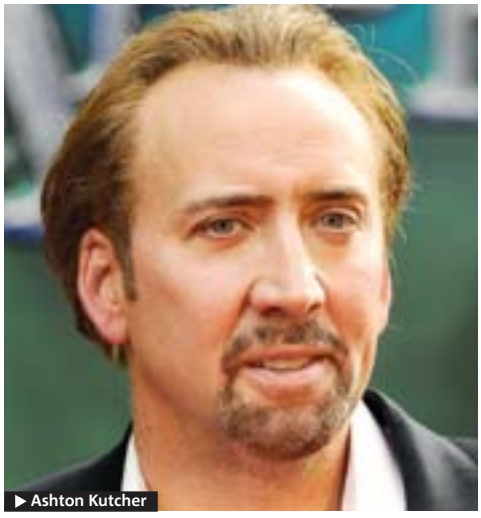
Ashton Kutcher [@aplusk] STAR magazine — you don't get to stand behind "freedom of the press" when you are writing fiction.

Sam Ronson [@samantharonson] Damn- have you guys heard of this Justin Bieber kid? Keep an eye out... he can bowl and play basketball and dance. He might have a future!

Lily Allen [@lilyroseallen] Very glad that today is over. So tired I'm gonna go bed without brushing my teeth.

Joel McHale [@joelmchale] A Question that's been bugging me since I was a kid. I would b gr8ful if I could get the real truth: Did Pop Rocks actually blow up a dog?

METRO

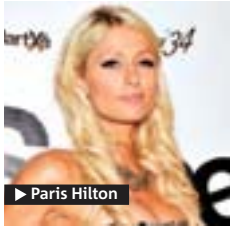

▶ Ashton Kutcher

Cage's lawsuit was tossed out of court

$20M
Nicholas Cage sued Samuel J. Levin for giving him bad financial advice.

Court records show a lawsuit in which Nicolas Cage accused a former business manager of mismanagement has been dismissed.

A counterclaim by the manager, Samuel J. Levin, also was dismissed.The 46-year-old Cage sued Levin for $20 million in October, claiming the accountant led him on a path to financial ruin.Levin countersued for unpaid fees and alleged the actor didn't listen to his advice.Court records indicate both cases were dismissed Monday. No other details were available. Phone messages left for Cage's attorney Marty Singer and Levin's attorney Joseph Schleimer were not immediately returned Wednesday. The dismissal was first reported Wednesday by celebrity website TMZ.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS


▶ Paris Hilton

Vegas clubs could ban Paris

While many Las Vegas clubs had talked of "banning" Paris Hilton after her arrest for cocaine possession, others are reportedly offering up to $100,000 to the heiress to appear for Labor Day weekend, according to E! News.

"They're trying to capitalize on press from the situation, but she's turning them all down and staying at home," a source says.

And at least one major Vegas hotel has no intentions of banning her.

"She has been a guest here many, many times and we would always welcome her back," a spokesman for the Las Vegas Hilton tells People magazine. METRO

T.I. arrested in L.A. on pot charges

Rapper T.I. and his wife, Tameka Cottle, were arrested in Los Angeles for possession of a controlled substance, according to TMZ.

Sources say police pulled over the rapper's Maybach on Sunset Boulevard late Wednesday night and searched the vehicle after reportedly smelling marijuana. T.I. was recently released from federal prison, where he served a seven-month sentence for weapons possession. The couple was released early Thursday morning after posting $10,000 bail. METRO

GETTY IMAGES

▶ T.I.

Michael Lohan admits selling LiLo's diary

Michael Lohan is getting settled into his new Los Angeles apartment and hoping to fix his relationship with daughter Lindsay Lohan, but first he'll have to deal with claims that he sold pages of her diary to a gossip Web site.

Michael admits he sent the site the pages, but not to turn a profit.

"I never meant to offer those for sale," he tells Hollyscoop.

The diary entry in question was written while Lindsay was still in rehab, and Michael says he wanted them to get out because "they directly talk about how she said the doctors have her on the wrong medication and she mentioned how she wished the doctors would get the medication right." METRO

GETTY IMAGES

▶ Michael Lohan

Get more flavour with less labour

Weeknight cooking is no time for nuance But it can still be tasty

Weeknight meals must cut through the clutter of weekday chaos. And they must do it quickly and without fuss, mess, or toil.

It's a simple premise. Let high-flavour ingredients do most of the work. Foods that taste great going into the pot need less work from you to taste great when they come out. Ingredients such as Parmesan cheeses, balsamic vinegars, jalapenos, chorizos and wasabis of the world.

In the cookbook, High Flavor, Low Labor: Reinventing Weeknight Cooking by Associated Press Food Editor J.M. Hirsch (to be released Sept. 7) ease and flavour rule. Because bland foods just don't satisfy.

"I'm not big on fancy techniques. I'm not a chef and I've never worked in a restaurant. I'm just a working dad who loves good food and won't sacrifice eating well just because I have a crazy life," he says.

Here are some of his favourite high-flavour ingredients. All are easy to get and even easier to use.

Citrus juice and zest: Citrus effortlessly brightens and sharpens flavours. The juices are best in marinades, dressings, sauces, even soups (try a splash in chicken and tomato soups). The zest is great in baked goods, sauces, and sautes (add it to a saute of kale with garlic and grated Parmesan cheese).

Ginger: Fresh ginger (sold as a funky brown root in the produce section) has a peppery sweet flavour and is essential to Asian cooking. Also try it grated over steamed and buttered potatoes or mixed into a vinaigrette. The best place to store fresh ginger is the freezer. It keep for months.

Salt: Many foods — even sweets — simply taste flat without a pinch of salt. It doesn't take much, and it doesn't take the pricey gourmet stuff. The best bet is kosher salt, which is inexpensive and easy to pinch. Keep a bowl of it next to the stove.

Wine: It's all about getting sauced. Or is that making sauce? Whichever, wine is great for deglazing pans.

Hot Sauce: This is my secret ingredient in hummus and cheese sauces. Just a dash brightens the other flavours without adding significant heat.

Anchovies: Anchovies are incredibly savoury, inexpensive and easy to use. Best yet, you don't need to eat them whole to appreciate them. Place a few in a hot pan and stir around; they will melt into a flavourful paste.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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▶ This spicy black bean, sausage and rice burrito is full of flavour and easy enough for a weeknight meal. See recipe at left.

Spicy burrito

Ingredients :

- 4 slices bacon, cut into 2.5 cm pieces
- 1 small onion, diced
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- 2 precooked spicy chicken sausages, cut
- 5 ml smoked paprika
- 250 ml long-grain white rice
- 500 ml chicken broth
- 460 ml can black beans, drained
- 250 ml jarred tomatillo salsa
- Salt and ground black pepper, to taste
- 4 burrito flour tortillas
- 125 ml chopped fresh cilantro
- 250 ml shredded cheddar cheese
- 250 ml sour cream

Preparation:

1. In a medium saucepan over medium-high heat, cook the bacon for 2 minutes. Add the onion, garlic, sausages and smoked paprika. Saute for 3 minutes.
2. Add the rice and cook, stirring constantly, for another 30 seconds. Add the broth and beans, stir well, and bring to a boil. Cover the pan, reduce the heat to simmer, and cook for 15 minutes.
3. Remove the saucepan from the heat and let cool for 5 minutes. Mix in the salsa, then season with salt and pepper.
4. Microwave the tortillas for about 15 seconds to soften them. Divide the rice and beans mixture among the tortillas, then top each with chopped cilantro, cheddar cheese, and sour cream.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

3 life

Cinnamon

Cinnamon makes us think of sweets and baked goods in Canada and the United States. In the rest of the world, it's a savoury seasoning that shows up in meat rubs, vegetable stews and curries, as well as sprinkled over grains, such as couscous. And with good reason. Cinnamon imparts a mellow, delicious warmth and aroma. Try a little in your next batch of chili.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Holiday weekend calls for brown sugar glazed grilled pork chops.

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Have a fruity Quesadilla

Fresh local pears, nectarines and plums anchor these fruit quesadillas enriched with cream cheese and jazzed up with pure maple syrup Mix and match fruits to create deliciously different combos

Fruit Quesadillas

Preparation:

1. In a small bowl, combine nectarine, pear, plums, brown sugar and cinnamon. In a separate bowl, combine cream cheese, maple syrup and orange rind.
2. Spread each tortilla with about 30 ml (2 tbsp) of the cheese mixture. Top 1 half of each with 125 ml (1/2 cup) fruit. Fold each tortilla over to cover filling and press down gently.
3. Cook in large non-stick skillet over medium-high heat for about 2 minutes on each side or until crispy and browned. Remove from heat and let stand for 1 minute. Cut each quesadilla into 4 wedges, sprinkle with icing sugar. Serve immediately. Makes 16 wedges.
4. Tips: To grill quesadillas, cook over medium-high heat for 1 1/2 to 2 minutes per side or until crispy and browned.

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▶ Fruit Quesadillas.

ISTOCK

Ingredients :

- 1 each nectarine and pear, ripe but firm (pitted, cored and diced)
- 2 plums, ripe but firm (pitted and diced)
- 30 ml packed brown sugar
- 1 ml cinnamon
- 125 g cream cheese, softened
- 15 ml pure maple syrup
- 5 ml grated orange rind
- 4 regular whole wheat or regular tortillas
- Icing sugar

Federer has 'all the answers'

PAUL J. BERESWILL/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ Roger Federer serves to Andreas Beck Thursday at the U.S. Open.

After two U.S. Open matches, Swiss star claims he is in the zone

Roger Federer is one cool customer.

The temperature climbed above 30 C yet again Thursday at Flushing Meadows, and the guy showed up for work wearing a warmup jacket. Then he put in his one hour 41 minutes on court, dismissing 104th-ranked Andreas Beck of Germany 6-3, 6-4, 6-3 with the help of 15 aces to ease into the third round of the U.S. Open.

"It's about just saving your energy for the really big match coming up, maybe the next one," Federer said, perhaps mindful that he was pushed to five sets in the opening round at Wimbledon in June before eventually losing in the quarter-finals at a second consecutive major tournament.

He dropped all of seven games in the first round of the U.S. Open, and the owner of a record 16 Grand Slam titles is feeling pretty good about things at the moment.

"It's the perfect start, sure. I played Monday, had two days off. I had another easy one physically today, and here I am in the third round feeling like I'm completely in the tournament," said Federer, a five-time U.S. Open champion and the only man left in the field who has won it.

"I got a sense for how the court speed is again. I got the sense of the crowd and the wind now, as well. I played one night, one day," he continued. "I have all the answers after two matches."

In other words: Let everyone else sweat it out. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

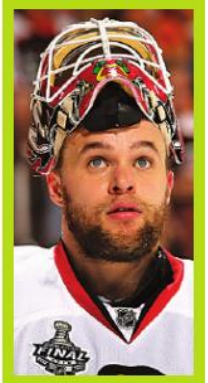
Other results

▶ Kei Nishikori

- Kei Nishikori, the 147th-ranked qualifier from Japan, earned a 5-7, 7-6 (6), 3-6, 7-6 (3), 6-1 victory over 11th-seeded Marin Cilic Thursday.
- Top-seeded Caroline Wozniacki didn't waste any time on court, blanking 84th-ranked Chang Kai-chen 6-0, 6-0.
- Maria Sharapova beat 68th-ranked Iveta Benesova of the Czech Republic 6-1, 6-2 under the lights.
- Beatrice Capra, an 18-year-old from Ellicott City, Md., ousted No. 18-seeded Aravane Rezai of France 7-5, 2-6, 6-3.
- No. 22 Maria Jose Martinez Sanchez lost to Patty Schnyder, while other winners included 2004 champion Svetlana Kuznetsova, 2008 runner-up Jelena Jankovic and 2010 Wimbledon finalist Vera Zvonareva.

4 sports

Quoted



"I thought for me it would be really important to go to a really good team and also a really good organization. They really wanted me there, too. It wasn't too hard a decision after all."

FORMER BLACKHAWKS GOALIE ANTTI NIEMI, ON SIGNING WITH THE SHARKS THURSDAY.

Scan code for news

'Progress' is the word for Canada

Canada wrapped up a disappointing performance at the FIBA world men's basketball championships with a 89-67 loss Thursday to defending champion Spain.

But while the 19th-ranked Canadians went winless in their first appearance in the world championships in eight years, Wayne Parrish, Canada Basketball's CEO and executive director, said he saw glimpses of a promising future for the young men's squad.

"The 0-and-5 isn't what we hoped for when we came here, but my sense is there are a number of positives to reflect upon," Parrish told The Canadian Press. "There were stretches today when Kelly Olynyk (19 years old) and Rob Sacre (21) were on the floor at the same time and were giving Spain some issues and some problems.

"My sense is we made progress."

Olynyk, from Kamloops, B.C., led Canada with 14 points, while Toronto's Jevohn Shepherd had 12. Miami Heat centre Joel Anthony of Montreal added six rebounds. Parrish said the men's program is just two years into an eight-year plan leading up to the 2016 Olympics, and fielded one of the youngest teams in Turkey with the least amount of international experience. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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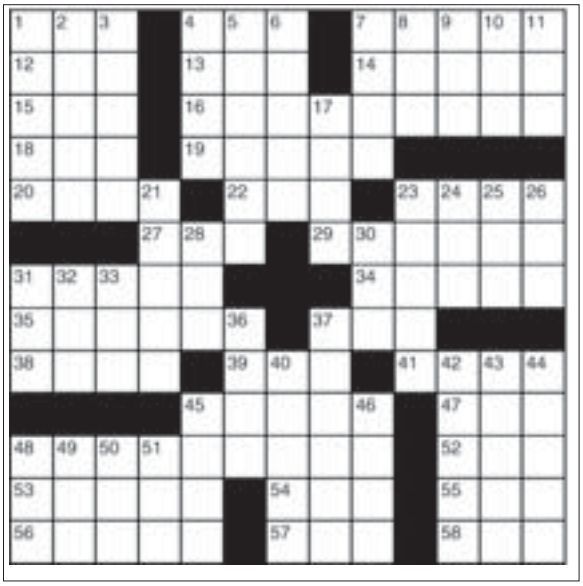
Crossword



Across

1 Likely
4 Literary collection
7 Like a snake's eyes
12 Bud's buddy
13 Once around
14 Political debate subject
15 Under the weather
16 Chinese leader, 1911-12
18 — -relief
19 Curved moldings
20 Baghdad's land
22 Actor Linden
23 Hardy cabbage
27 Last (Abbr.)
29 Take a parking space
31 Bewildered
34 Napped leather
35 Charlatans
37 Encountered
38 Ilk
39 Bookkeeper (Abbr.)
41 Wild and crazy
45 Knitting stitches
47 "The way"
48 Drummer with The Who
52 Cologne label word
53 Bert's roomie
54 Lennon's lady
55 Performance
56 Veep who resigned in disgrace
57 A handful
58 Speedometer stat

Down

1 Excuse
2 — opposites
3 Oklahoma city
4 As well
5 Zero
6 Breathing problem
7 Prejudice
8 Part of i.e.
9 Fool
10 Payable
11 Longing
17 Shrill cry
21 Line
23 Hardly graceful one
24 Pub order
25 Cover
26 Chemical suffix
28 Young bloke
30 Work with
31 Sternward
32 Stab
33 Fool
36 Pond gunk
37 Karl or Moses of basketball
40 Irrefutable evidence
42 Top players
43 Civil rights org.
44 Adolescence
45 "That was close!"
46 Winter forecast
48 Mauna —
49 Work unit
50 B&B
51 Cravat

▶ Yesterday's answer

Sudoku

6		5				8		1
	4		2		1		3	
2								9
		8	1		3	7		
	2						5	
		3	6		9	1		
9								7
	1		8		7		4	
5		6				3		8

How to play

Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

Yesterday's answer ▶

2	9	3	7	6	5	1	4	8
1	8	6	2	3	4	9	5	7
5	7	4	1	9	8	6	3	2
8	5	9	3	4	7	2	1	6
3	2	1	6	5	9	8	7	4
4	6	7	8	1	2	5	9	3
7	1	8	9	2	3	4	6	5
6	4	2	5	7	1	3	8	9
9	3	5	4	8	6	7	2	1

Send a KISS

Show some love! Send a note to somebody special at kiss@metronews.ca

My lovely sherbear! I want 2say thank u 4 all small things &big things you've done 4me! I love u 4 who u r Have a good day!
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Shorty Amandine, my love for grows each day, Happy anniversary baby. Let's break down those walls together. **YOUR EIFEL TOWER, HAMILTON**

Shaddy, you make me the happiest boy in the World. I promise to make the happiest days of your past the lowest days of your future. I love u "bro" LOL.
ADP

Baby, I'm sorry it took me so long to realize what is real. Everything is the way it should be now. Thank you for loving me for so many years. I have so much love to give you and make up for the time we lost.
YOUR BABY XOX

A look at the weather

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Min 6° Max 25°	Min 9° Max 21°	Min 6° Max 13°

Andrew Schultz, Meteorologist
"I get to spread the word on how your day, evening or weekend will shape up with our ever-changing weather here in Alberta". **WEEKDAYS 6AM**

BT BREAKFAST TELEVISION

Today's horoscope

For today's crossword answers and for expanded horoscopes, go to metronews.ca

♈ Aries March 21-April 20 You have some serious things to take care of today, so don't allow yourself to get sidetracked by anything that is not directly related to your goals.

♉ Taurus April 21-May 21 Put your doubts and fears behind you. The planets promise that your successes will pay off in a big way, while your failures will be small and insignificant.

♊ Gemini May 22-June 21 As the Sun in your sign is close to Mercury today it's unlikely you will let your emotions get the better of you. However, as Mercury is moving retrograde it would be a mistake to rely entirely on reason. Listen to your inner voice too.

♋ Cancer June 22-July 22 Don't impose restrictions on yourself. Go where you want to go and do what you want to do and don't worry in the slightest what others might say about it.

♌ Leo July 23-Aug.23 Money matters of one sort or another will be on your mind today, but don't let them take over to the extent that you think about nothing else. Money is important but it's people who make the world go around.

♍ Virgo Aug. 24- Sept. 22 You will want to start something new today, but don't be in such a rush to get going that you overlook small but important details. Clarify your long-term aims.

♎ Libra Sept. 23-Oct. 23 Today's link between the Sun and mind planet Mercury suggests you want to be alone with your thoughts for a while.

♏ Scorpio Oct. 24-Nov. 22 You seem to be having second thoughts about a belief or an outlook that has never troubled you in the past. Don't sweep it under the carpet and pretend it does not exist.

♐ Sagittarius Nov. 23-Dec. 21 You have what it takes to reach the top of your chosen profession, but sacrifices will have to be made. The more old things you can live without the more new things will come into your life over the next few days.

♑ Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 20 Because today's Sun-Mercury union falls in your fellow Earth sign of Virgo you will be crystal clear about your priorities, but are they the right priorities?

♒ Aquarius Jan. 21-Feb. 18 You've got to be tough but fair, both with other people and with yourself. You won't need to stoop to underhand methods to reach your goals today but you might need to be ruthless.

♓ Pisces Feb. 19-March 20 Usually you don't have to tell loved ones how much they mean to you because your actions speak louder than words, but today you must spell it out for them. You can't say it too much. SALLY BROMPTON

ANDRE PENNER/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Caption contest

WIN!

You write it!

Write a funny caption for the image to the right and send it to play@metronews.ca — the winning caption will be published in tomorrow's Metro.

ALEXANDER F. YUAN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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